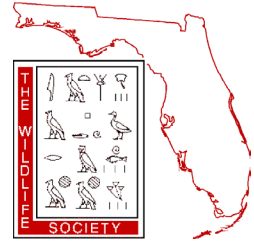


# FLORIDA CHAPTER THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*Herbert W. Kale, II Award 2023*



We are pleased to announce that **Martin B. (Marty) Main** is the recipient of the 2023 Herbert W. Kale, II Award, presented by the Florida Chapter of The Wildlife Society.



Marty Main receives his award at the 2023 Spring Meeting of FLTWS (Laramie Ferry presenting)

Martin B. “Marty” Main’s higher education took him around our nation: Central Michigan (B.S.), FIT (M.S.), and Oregon State (Ph.D.). In 1996 he returned to The Sunshine State and found his home by joining UF’s Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. He rose through the ranks and became Full Professor in 2008. He twice served as interim chair and spent 2005-2006 as Visiting Research Scholar, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge in England.

From 2013-2019, he changed his focus to administration as Associate Dean and Program Leader, Extension Natural Resources, and Associate Director, Florida Sea Grant Extension.

Early in his career, Dr. Main created the Florida Master Naturalist Program ([www.MasterNaturalist.org](http://www.MasterNaturalist.org)), a conservation education and natural history extension program. FMNP is taught by a statewide instructor network of approximately 200 certified FMNP Instructors that include Cooperative Extension Service and Sea Grant faculty and partners from other organizations that share an environmental education mission.

The FMNP serves both lay and professional audiences and has a detailed curriculum that includes core, 40-hr courses (Coastal Systems, Freshwater Systems, Upland Habitats) and 24-hr special topics courses (Wildlife Monitoring, Habitat Evaluation, Conservation Science, Environmental Interpretation, Coastal Shoreline Restoration, Marine Habitat Restoration, Invasive Plants and a new course this year, Freshwater Restoration). For more information on courses: <https://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fmnp/>.

FMNP courses were first released in 2001 and the FMNP has since issued nearly 20,000 graduate certificates and currently issues approximately 1,000-1,500 FMNP graduate certificates each year. Graduates of the FMNP have contributed thousands of hours and millions of dollars to the state of Florida. They have improved their professional skills, changed careers, and taken FMNP information into classrooms.

The FMNP is not simply successful in terms of graduates and impacts, it is also a revenue generating, revenue-sharing, and self-sustaining extension program. The FMNP is recognized as a national model of excellence in extension education and is being emulated in states throughout the country. Dr. Main has worked directly with extension education professionals from numerous states to assist them in the development of master naturalist programs, including being a co-PI on a successful NSF grant to the University of Minnesota. The success and impacts of the FMNP have been notable and resulted in many awards, including the 2014 Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education from the Ecological Society of America. Although Dr. Main has been the recipient of most of these awards the success of the FMNP is largely due to the dedication and the excellence in education that is provided by the FMNP Instructors with whom he works. Without their skill and commitment to education and to this program specifically, the FMNP could never have become the success it is today. Most importantly, the FMNP is a success because of the contributions that FMNP graduates provide to their local communities, students, professions, visitors, and family and friends by sharing their passion for and knowledge about Florida's natural resources.

Dr. Main authored four book chapters, about 40 refereed publications, about 70 reviewed extension publications, and about 30 other extension publications, (a dozen being videos), 17 journal & trade magazine articles, and three book reviews.

As detailed above, for more than a quarter century, Dr. Main has made a significant contribution to the conservation of Florida's natural resources on both a technical and popular level. He has earned The Herbert W. Kale, II Award for 2023.